(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to fill up the vacancies in consultation with "Prasar Bharati Board" in view of generating employment under public sector unit as well as to combat unemployment problem in the country to some extent?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action for filling up the necessary vacancies has been initiated by Prasar Bharati.

Quick Service for Distribution of Letters and Articles

*487. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Department of Posts are considering some measures to ensure that the dak from Delhi/New Delhi reaches each of the capitals of States/ Union Territories the very next day without any surcharge;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the geographical location of each of the State Capitals/Union Territories and the Air/Rail connections available between these stations, norms for delivery of letter between these places are within 48—72 hours after the day of posting. These norms have been laid down keeping in view the time required for collection, processing, transmission, sorting and delivery of mail under normal conditions. While delivery of mails from Delhi to some State Capitals/Union Territories depending on the time of posting of mail and the Air connection available could be delivered the very next day, the same may not be feasible in respect of each of the locations because of their locations from Delhi and non-availability of suitable Air/Train connections. The Department has already introduced from 1994 special mail channels, called, Rajdhani Channel for transmission of household mail between Delhi and the State Capitals (other than the metros) and Metro Channel between Delhi and the Metros and between the Metros. Specially desinged letter boxes and mail bags in yellow colour for Rajdhani Channel and blue colour for Metro Channel, have also been introduced. For priority handling of this category of mail in transmission, these bags are closed with specially designed colour lables. Because of geographical locations, it is not feasible to introduce Rajdhani Channel for all the capitals of Union Territories.

Supreme Court's Judgement Regarding Appointment of Officer Nominee Director

*488. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hon'able Supreme Court of India, in its judgement given in August, 1989 in the case of Transfer of Petitioners No. 376—401 of 1985 in the appointment of officer nominee Director on the board of nationalised banks clearly asked Government either to amend the existing scheme for appointments and until any amendment is made to continue the existing scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the judgement and whether it has since been implemented; and

(c) if not, the reason for not implementing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgement delivered on 14th August, 1989 in the case regarding nomination of officer employee directors on the Boards of public sector banks had observed that the nomination of the officer employee director should be made in such a way as to give maximum scope to the concerned employees to exercise their choice in the selection of their representatives. Nominations have been made in accordance with the aforesaid judgement of the Supreme Court of India.

आम चुनाव कराने पर होने वाले व्यय में वृद्धि

*489. **श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया:**

श्रीमती शबाना आज़मी:

क्या विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में आम चुनाव कराने पर होने वाले व्यय में निरंतर वृद्धि हो रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा गत पांच आम चुनावों में प्रत्येक चुनाव पर कितना-कितना व्यय किया गया; और

(ग) वर्ष 1998 के दौरान आम चुनाव कराने पर कितना व्यय किया गया तथा व्यय में वृद्धि होने के मुख्य कारण क्या हैं?

विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्री (श्री एस० थम्बी दुरई): (क) जी, हां। तथापि, 1998 के साधारण निर्वाचनों पर अनंतिम व्यय न्यूनाधिक वही है जो 1996 के निर्वाचनों पर हुआ था।

(ख) केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा, गत पांच साधारण निर्वाचनों के दौरान, उपगत व्ययों के अंनतिम आंकड़े निम्नलिखित हैं:—

क्रम सं०	वर्ष	अनंतिम व्यय
1.	1984	81,51,34,000
2.	1989	154,22,00,000
3.	1991	359,10,24,679
4.	1996	597,34,41,000
5.	1998	525,22,16,000†

† महाराष्ट्र और आन्ध्र प्रदेश राज्य सरकारों से निर्वाचन व्यय संबंधी आंकड़े प्राप्त नहीं हुए हैं।

(ग) इस विभाग में उपलब्ध अनंतिम व्यय आंकड़ों के अनुसार, 525,22,16,000 रु० की राशि (महाराष्ट्र और आन्ध्र प्रदेश राज्य सरकारों की बाबत आंकड़ों को छोड़कर) 1998 के साधारण निर्वाचनों के संचालन पर व्यय की गई थी। पिछले वर्षों से निर्वाचन व्यय की लागत में वृद्धि के कारण रहे हैं, साधारण कीमत वृद्धि, निर्वाचन लड़ने वालों और मतदाताओं की संख्या में महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि जिसके फलस्वरूप मत पेटियों, मतदान केन्द्रों और अन्य निर्वाचन सामग्रियों पर किए जाने वाले व्यय में वृद्धि हुई है। तथापि, 1996 के साधारण निर्वाचनों की तुलना में 1998 के साधारण निर्वाचनों पर हुए व्यय में कोई महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन नहीं हुआ है।

Assistance from International Financial Agencies to NHAI

*490. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of loans and finances made available from international financial agencies to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI);

(b) whether National Highways Authority of India is making use of such funds;

(c) whether it is a fact that modern and people-friendly designs for road development have not been adopted by NHAI; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that NHAI uses latest design for road development in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) National Highways Authority